# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

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|---|---|---|---|
| Name of Candidate | Angad Mehta | | |
| Medium Eng./Hindi | English | Registration Number | 461604 |
| Center | Delhi | Date | 2.09.19 |

### INDEX TABLE

| Q. No. | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | |
| 2 | 10 | |
| 3 | 10 | |
| 4 | 10 | |
| 5 | 10 | |
| 6 | 10 | |
| 7 | 10 | |
| 8 | 10 | |
| 9 | 10 | |
| 10 | 10 | |
| 11 | 15 | |
| 12 | 15 | |
| 13 | 15 | |
| 14 | 15 | |
| 15 | 15 | |
| 16 | 15 | |
| 17 | 15 | |
| 18 | 15 | |
| 19 | 15 | |
| 20 | 15 | |

**Total Marks Obtained:**

**Remarks:**

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

# EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Reservation of seats in legislature is needed to ensure meaningful political participation of women and to make the democratic process truly inclusive. Discuss the statement in the light of 108th Constitution Amendment Bill.

**(150 words) 10**

महिलाओं की सार्थक राजनीतिक सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करने एवं लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया को सही अर्थों में समावेशी बनाने हेतु विधायिका में सीटों के आरक्षण की आवश्यकता है। 108वें संविधान संशोधन विधेयक के आलोक में इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए।

The 108th Constitution Amendment Bill aims to reserve 33% of seats in Parliament and State legislatures for women. This has been supported as a measure to increase female participation from the current rate of 14.2% which is dismal, and make it more inclusive.

It will have many advantages:

1. Female voice - currently female issues like anaemia / surrogacy do not get enough attention.

2. Representation - comprising 50% of the population women should be present in making decisions

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3. Quality of legislation - will improve due to unique viewpoint of women on many issues. eg: feminist foreign policy of Sweden which aims to change masculine/aggressive foreign policy atmosphere.

However, many concerns have been raised that doing so could have implications such as:

1) Reduction of representation of OBCs by women belonging to General category.
2) Many women themselves do not want the aid of reservations which carries stigma.
3) It may promote nepotism by giving representation to women from political families.

Thus, the Bill needs further debate among society.

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2. Discuss the issue of reservation in promotions for SCs and STs in public employment in the light of various judicial pronouncements and constitutional amendments. **(150 words) 10**

विभिन्न न्यायिक निर्णयों और संवैधानिक संशोधनों के आलोक में सार्वजनिक नियोजन में SCs और STs के लिए पदोन्नति में आरक्षण के मुद्दे पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The Nagaraj case in Supreme Court (2006) outlined 3 conditions for reservation in promotions to SC/STs :

1) adequacy of representation
2) need for administrative efficiency
3) Quantifiable data to measure backwardness of SC/STs

This had been in response to Constitutional Amendments in 1996, 1999 which had given consequential seniority to SC/STs going against the Supreme Court verdict in Indira Sawhney case (1993)
↳ which had prohibited reservations in reservations.

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(1) Recently, the Supreme Court in the Jarnail Singh case permitted SC/ST reservations without the qualification of data on backwardness. The removal of this condition does not remove the other 2 requirements of the Nagaraj case (2006).

(2) The Supreme Court also permitted SC/ST reservations in State Governments after Karnataka submitted a plea with quantifiable data collected by the Ratna Prabha committee.

(3) SC/ST reservations have also been extended in Public sector employment which had become cause of confusion due to conflicting HC judgements, under Nagaraj case (2006) conditions.

→ Thus, reservations in promotion are permitted to enable adequate representation.

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3. Highlight the reasons behind underperformance of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). How can their performance be improved?

**(150 words) 10**

स्वायत्त जिला परिषदों (ADCs) के निम्नस्तरीय कार्य-निष्पादन के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। उनके कार्य-निष्पादन को कैसे बेहतर किया जा सकता है?

Autonomous District Councils (ADC) are permitted under 6th Schedule of the Constitution for the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

↳ They preserve tribal autonomy and customs in their territory and are given special privileges.

↳ However, they also suffer some problems which affect their performance:

1) Resource dependency on Central funds
   ↳ inability to become financially independent.

2) Unaccountable to local people due to distribution of patronage

3) Patriarchy and the protection of customs that are misogynistic

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(4)

There performance has become a cause of concern moreover because the transfer of funds was often dependent on State government.

Measures to resolve problems in ADCs

1) Recent Constitutional Amendment will transfer funds directly to ADCs from the Centre through Finance Commission transfers.

2) Allow reservation of seats to women, amendment has been passed recently but yet to be operationalised.

3) Enhanced autonomy from State govt which often controls officials of ADCs and curtails jurisdictions / funds.

Thus, ADCs can perform effectively & bring peace to North East if they are strengthened to provide basic public services to people.

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4. Highlighting the rationale behind continuance of the Official Secrets Act, critically discuss whether the Right to Information should be given precedence over it. **(150 words) 10**

शासकीय गुप्त बात अधिनियम की निरंतरता के पीछे निहित औचित्य पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या सूचना के अधिकार को इस पर वरीयता दी जानी चाहिए।

The Official Secrets Act (OSA) is a colonial law which was enacted to prevent leakage of critical information by officials.
It classified vast amounts of information as official secrets and this practise was continued after Independence by many governments. This had many adverse consequences:

1) Unaccountable government - which did not answer to people because it suppressed information.

2) Lack of transparency - bureaucratic control did not permit questioning of decisions.

3) Hiding of failures - many governments hid their mistakes from their citizens

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However, the OSA continues to remain in place because:

1) National security cannot be compromised
   → such as defense, intelligence

2) Some decisions should not be in public domain
   → deliberations on foreign policy and national strategy.

The RTI (2006) cannot be given precedence over it:

1) Information cannot be blanket classified as necessary for public knowledge, there has to be nuance

2) RTI itself has provision for refusal on grounds of national security.

3) Moreover, the Central Information Commission has ruled that OSA cannot be invoked against RTI as Information is now a constitutional Right under Article 21.

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5. Write a short note on India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework. Highlighting its main principles, examine how its full fledged implementation can improve the existing governance landscape of India.

**(150 words) 10**

इंडिया एंटरप्राइज आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) फ्रेमवर्क पर एक संक्षिप्त लेख लिखिए। इसके प्रमुख सिद्धांतों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इसका पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन भारत के वर्तमान शासन परिदृश्य को उन्नत बना सकता है।

India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) is an overarching architecture of E-Governance which will include all existing (brownfield) and new (green-field) initiatives of Government.

Main principles →

1. Ease of Access : all citizens will have universal access to all e-governance services on single integrated platform

2. Information / Collaboration : to bring all information from silos and have better data to make decisions.

3. Security - to ensure privacy of individual and security of data.

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## Benefits of Implementation:

1) Better utilisation of resources - due to targeted schemes with precise data profiles.
2) Dynamic monitoring - with real time data of service delivery
3) Updated benefiary list - will remove leakages / errors in schemes such as basing on SECC 2011.
4) Complete integrated e-Governance experience - will make citizen more aware of possible schemes and enhance ease of access.

Thus, INDEA is a potentially transformative endeavour that can reduce discretion in government, deliver services faster and reduce the layers of bureaucracy.

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6. What is the rationale behind having a mandatory 'cooling-off' period for retired civil servants? In light of numerous instances of violation of this provision, do you think there is a need to have a relook at Civil Services Conduct Rules? **(150 words) 10**

सेवानिवृत्त सिविल सेवकों के लिए अनिवार्य 'उपशमन' अवधि होने के पीछे क्या औचित्य है? इस प्रावधान के उल्लंघन के कई दृष्टांतों के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि सिविल सेवा आचरण नियमावली पर पुनर्विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Rationale behind a cooling-off period for retired civil servants is:

1) promote impartiality in decisions of serving public servants
2) prohibit revolving door character of public service - corporate sector which can lead to corruption
3) Level playing field for all companies in procurement / regulation as civil servants cannot be influenced.

↳ However, there have been incidents of violation which bring to light the efficacy of this provision of Civil Services Conduct Rules (CSCR).

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But I am not of the opinion that the Conduct Rules should be changed because of the solid rationale for their formulation.

Instead, it would be better to bring in other measures:

1) enforcement - strict monitoring by Department of Personnel & Training of retired civil services declarations.

2) Penalties - for violation of cooling off period such as revocation of pension, eg: policy in European Union.

3) Integrity Pacts - signed between companies not to hire of civil servants within the cooling period. Possible amendment to Companies Act, 2013.

↳ Thus, with these comprehensive measures the danger of possible collusion between companies and civil servants can be averted.

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7. Highlighting the key features of POSHAN Abhiyan, explain how it is an improvement over previous interventions in achieving the goal of malnutrition free India. **(150 words) 10**

पोषण (POSHAN) अभियान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समझाइए कि यह कुपोषण मुक्त भारत के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में पिछले हस्तक्षेपों की तुलना में कैसे समुन्नत है।

POSHAN ABHIYAN - National Nutrition Mission is a strategy of the government to address the critical challenges of anaemia, malnutrition and stunting among children/mothers in India.

Features

1. National level body to coordinate strategy and achieve goals by 2022 across State and district levels.

2. Emphasis on mandatory food fortification with micro-nutrients.

3. Targeted approach - to aspirational districts program (of NITI Aayog) that suffer from most deprivation.

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Improvement over past schemes :

1) Convergence approach to direct all levels of government and enforce strict targets from National level

2) Population level approach with food fortification that will cover blanket population — this takes care of leakage / targeting error

3) Moreover the optimum use of Midday Meal + ICDS + ASHA all point towards action oriented program that mobilises all resources.

4) Ambitious targets of reducing malnutrition by 10% and anaemia by 15% in 5 years.

↳ Therefore, POSHAN Abhiyan marks an important intervention to address the lived experience of the most vulnerable.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. Highlighting the need of generic medicines in India, give an account of the reasons behind their lower availability and adoption. Also, mention some steps taken by the government in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में जेनरिक दवाओं की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनकी कम उपलब्धता और स्वीकरण हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कुछ कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

→ Generic medicines are medicines with same formula but without branding of the original manufacturer, offered by other companies after expiry of patent or under compulsory license (CL).

→ Reasons for lower Availability

1) lack of awareness - major pharma companies employ branding and convince doctors to only prescribe their expensive medicines.

2) Collusion with doctors - pharma companies give monetary incentives to doctors based on their prescriptions.

3) Lower profits for pharmacies is also a cause as generics have smaller margins.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Steps taken by government →

1. Jan Aushadi Kendras which grant free medicines or at nominal rates to people - stocked with generic medicines.

2. CGHS - procurement from generic companies to create large market for them.

3. Compulsory Licensing - while this provision does exist in India it has been used only once. More effective use can expand generic medicines.

↳ Thus, generic medicines can reduce out-of-pocket expenditure which is the cause of 60% of healthcare costs for poor. There is need for greater emphasis on them.

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9. Give an account of the challenges that the multilateral rule-based trading system is facing. With special focus on WTO, discuss how these challenges can be addressed effectively. **(150 words) 10**

बहुपक्षीय नियम-आधारित व्यापार प्रणाली द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। WTO पर विशेष बल देते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इन चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक समाधान किया जा सकता है।

Challenges to Multilateral trading system-

1. Protectionism by US - to address trade deficits unilaterally and maintain economic dominance

2. Weak Dispute Resolution- WTO Trade dispute body will be defunct by December 2019.

3. Failure to agree on Public Stockholding Peace clause is only temporary, India is concerned at targeting of farmer subsidies.

4. Plurilateralism - end of Single Undertaking in WTO, seen in ITA 2 and Trade in Services (TiS) which were agreed on a parallel track by only some nations.

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Possible Solutions → in WTO

1. EU + India proposal to set timelines and procedures for appointments to Dispute resolution body.

2. Increased access to developing countries to Green Room discussions.

3. Enable Doha Round to be achieved, and ending of excessive US demands

Unfortunately, developing countries like India and China are at the forefront of defending the multilateral trading system while it is the USA which is trying to practise realpolitik and maximise its advantage by →

1. ending TPP deal with Japan & others
2. ending NAFTA and renegotiating it.

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(2)

10. Highlight the major impediments affecting India-US trade relations. What possible consequences can the recent withdrawal of Generalized System of Preference (GSP) have on India-US trade relations? **(150 words) 10**

भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख अवरोधों पर प्रकाश डालिए। हाल ही में, अधिमानता की सामान्यीकृत प्रणाली (जनरलाईज्ड सिस्टम ऑफ़ प्रेफेरेंस: GSP) की समाप्ति से भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों पर क्या संभावित प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

Major Impediments to Indo-US Trade

1) US protectionism which focuses on deficits rather than causes - such as loss of US competitiveness

2) Indian trade policy which lacks coherence - imposes tariffs itself while protests US actions.

3) Visa ~~Relations~~ Requirements which are important to Indian service sector exports to the US - H1B visas have been curtailed to Indian companies & shifted to MNCs while total quota remains the same.

4) withdrawal of GSP by US → as it does not recognise India as "developing" status

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POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES →

1. Retaliatory Indian tariffs
2. expansion of trade war to India as well as China
3. Disruption of MSME exports from India which will become uncompetitive
4. Hit to the rural economy and labour intensive handicrafts
5. Slowdown in the informal sector
6. Mass unemployment due to fall in exports and lack of alternative markets with similar market size.

Therefore, although the size of the GSP exports is only approx. $4 billion it is concentrated in the MSME and artisan sector. This will have rural implications and for informal sector facing credit crunch already.

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11. In a democratic setup, it is imperative that independence be balanced with accountability. Discuss in the context of judiciary in India. (250 words) 15

किसी भी लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि स्वतंत्रता को जवाबदेही के साथ संतुलित किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Under Article 131 - 134 the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over federal matters and appellate jurisdiction on civil & criminal law.

As a critical guardian of Constitution it has the duty to safeguard Fundamental Rights under Article 32, and the High Courts are similarly empowered under Article 226.

These articles ensure the independence of the judiciary. Recent debates arise on how to ensure accountability within the institution in light of challenges:

1) Judicial activism - interference in matters of executive / legislature
eg: deciding compensation to flood victims of Thelum (2015)

2) Nepotism / Sexism - underrepresentation of female judges and many descendents of earlier judges.

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The Judiciary currently is accountable only to itself pursuant to the Collegium System:

1. Appointments / transfers made by Chief Justice & 4 senior most judges.

2. Government can return recommendations only once to the Supreme Court. It requires "concurrence" of the Chief Justice.

These norms have evolved over the 1990s under the First, Second and Third Judges case which:

1. established judicial independence in First Judges case
2. expanded collegium in the Second and Third Judges case.

The NJAC (National Judicial Accountability Commission) Amendment Act was passed by Parliament in 2015 but was declared by Supreme Court as "threat to judicial primacy" and ultra vires.

↳ In a democracy, there cannot be judicial primacy. All institutions have to be equal stakeholders.

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Therefore, the NJAC was a model law that included the executive (PM), the legislative opposition (LoP in Parliament) and the judiciary itself (the Chief Justice) along with eminent jurists (legal community).

↳ The clear conflict of interest of the Supreme Court in guarding its privileges over clear legislative consensus must be addressed.

↳ Otherwise this can threat public trust in judiciary and lead to breakdown in institutional checks and balances.

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12. Despite various strengths, there are certain weaknesses in the existing structure of departments of the government which render the system slow and cumbersome. Analyze. **(250 words) 15**

विभिन्न गुणों के बावजूद, सरकार के विभागों की वर्तमान संरचना में कुछ दुर्बलताएं विद्यमान हैं जो व्यवस्था को धीमा और बोझिल बना देती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The existing structures of the government departments are governed by the Conduct of Business Rules, 1961 of the Government.

They do have certain strengths:

1. clear dilenation of responsibility
2. some specialisation due to distinct cadres
3. coordination by Cabinet Secretary and Council of Ministers.
4. Clear Rules / procedures

However, as Crozier noted, this can lead to bureaucratic attitude which is marked by (1) slowness (2) ponderousness and (3) complicated procedures.

This makes the system unresponsive to new situations

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Weaknesses

1. Weberian character and emphasis on procedure and rules. Outcomes are not measured at all.

2. Generalist character of structure which does not encourage flow of specialists from district to state to Union.

3. Silo division of all departments which do not allow either horizontal or vertical flow.

4. Lack of cohesion / coordination between departments leads to stress on Group of Ministers (GoM), essentially informal structure.

Measures

Keeping in mind these challenges, the structure of government has to be reorganised to deliver quality governance in the 21st century. These can be →

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Shift from procedures to outcomes.
2. independent evaluations from third parties.
3. Shift from monitoring (by officers) to assessing results and modifying schemes and projects.
4. Citizen Charters to allow feedback from stakeholders like citizens and NGOs
5. e-Governance to improve accessibility and improve government services. Also need to redesign processes
6. Reducing layers of decision making

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. In the light of criticism surrounding the composition and functioning of Rajya Sabha, do you think it exists merely as a secondary house of the Parliament? (250 words) 15

राज्यसभा की संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली से संबद्ध आलोचना के प्रकाश में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि इसका अस्तित्व केवल संसद के एक द्वितीयक सदन के रूप में है?

In recent years there has been debate on the functioning of Rajya Sabha and some criticism:

1. functioning - marked by walk-outs and delays that prevent legislation and scrutiny of government by the Opposition.

2. composition - the weightage of some states gives smaller states less of a voice in the chamber. Dominance of UP and Bihar are noted in this regard.

However, this criticism does not do justice to the Rajya Sabha. It is envisaged as a distinct House to give its opinion on legislation and government policy. In many spheres it has privileges over its counterpart Lok Sabha →

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Under Article 249 it can ~~legislate on~~ certify State Subjects if its a matter of national importance which become part of Union List.

2. Under Article 253 it can enact laws under International treaties even if they inpinge on State Subjects.

3. It is the sole judge of the merit of creating additional All-India Services (article 312)

eg: proposal for IJS (Indian Judicial Service)

↳ Moreover the Rajya Sabha enjoys equality with Lok Sabha on many measures:

1. Ordinary laws require passage in both Houses
2. Both Houses are represented on the ~~Estimates~~ Public Accounts Committee
3. Both Houses have standing departmental committees to supervise government.

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Thus, the Rajya Sabha cannot be merely termed as a secondary house of Parliament.

There are some spheres in which the Lok Sabha enjoys superiority →

1. Accountability of Council of Ministers
2. Passage of Money Bill (debate on Aadhar Act passage)

Thus, both Houses of Parliament have different and balancing functions under the Constitutional order.

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14. Despite legislative changes with respect to funding of political parties in recent years, many challenges still exist with regards to transparency in electoral funding. Discuss. Can state funding of elections help in addressing these challenges? (250 words) 15

हाल के वर्षों में राजनीतिक दलों के वित्त-पोषण के संबंध में विधायी परिवर्तनों के बावजूद, चुनावी वित्त-पोषण में पारदर्शिता संबंधी कई चुनौतियां अभी भी बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या राज्य द्वारा चुनावों का वित्त-पोषण इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता कर सकता है?

(1)
Recent legislative changes under the Finance Act introduced electoral bonds as instruments of political funding to discourage cash funding.

(2) Amendments to the Companies Act, 2013 removed the limit of 7.5% of profits as the limit to political donations by a company. Also removed need to declare in Annual Report.

(3) Changes to IT Act (Income Tax Act) made political donations tax deductible.

However these changes do not address the challenge of transparency. Indeed, it further obscures:
1. source of funding
2. extent of funding by company

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

State funding of elections has been a proposal that has been suggested by many committees. There are some advantages to this proposal:

1. Reduces inequity among political competition, all have level playing field.
2. Transparency in source and extent of funding to parties.
3. Facilitates democracy, access to candidates without wealth compared to current assets of elected MPs.
4. Also will encourage all sections of society and increase participation among women, dalits and STs – currently 14% only for women.

However keeping in mind these advantages we have to consider whether it addresses challenge of transparency.

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Yes the proposal of state funding of elections will address transparency but it has some other practical changes:

1. Quantum of funding has to be decided based on last election which is status quoist and gives advantage to incumbent.

2. Removes voice of citizens to support only their candidate, taxes used to support all candidates which may not represent citizens.

↳ Therefore recent election reform proposals such as state funding or simultaneous elections have some advantages but the negatives have to be kept in mind.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Successful and long-lasting urban transformation critically depends on reforming the way our cities are governed. In this context, highlight the challenges plaguing urban governance in India and suggest some strategies to overcome those challenges. **(250 words) 15**

सफल और चिरस्थायी शहरी रूपांतरण मुख्यतया, हमारे शहरों को शासित करने के तरीके में सुधार पर निर्भर करता है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी शासन को दुष्प्रभावित करने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कुछ रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए।

The 74th Constitutional Amendment (1991) granted democracy and devolution of functions to the urban local bodies.

However the spirit of the reform has been plagued with problems. The Janagraha Annual State of City System (ASICS) Report 2017 states →

1. Only 9/18 metropolitan cities have a Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC).
2. Parastatals and state departments control most areas of devolution
3. Bureaucratic resistance to grassroots democracy has stymied reforms.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

## Challenges to Urban Governance :

The 2nd Administrative Reform Commission addressed some important urban governance problems →

1. Absence of direct elections for Mayor
2. Bureaucratic control of ULBs through an undelected commissioner
3. Insufficient Devolution - only 18 subjects for Urban local bodies while panchayati raj institutions have 27.
4. Absence of dedicated functionaries - no clear staff for municipal activities
5. Fragmentation of Responsibility
   → vertical fragmentation between State and ULBs
   → horizontal division between ULBs / State departments like police and parastatals like DTC or Delhi Jal Board.

All these pose significant challenges to a unified, ~~[illegible]~~ and accountable government that can give efficient administration to India's cities/towns.

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Possible Strategies :

1. Merge all parastatals into the ULB → DJB, Delhi Transport Corporation, etc.

2. Have direct elections for Mayor - clearly accountable

3. Devolve funds to ULBs through State Finance Commission → incentivise through Finance Commission under Article 280

4. unified metropolitan transport authority for planning / operations - like Transport for London

5. Expand revenue base through property taxes.

6. create dedicated municipal cadre of officials

7. Janagraha also recommended City Deals that merge cities into bigger concentrations such as NCR or Greater ~~Bangalore~~ Bangalore.

→ with effective devolution of 3Fs - funds, functions & functionaries it is possible to turn urban spaces into engines of growth with regulated and clean administration.

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**16.** Explain the role that SHGs play in poverty alleviation in India. Highlighting the shortcomings of the SHG-Bank Linkage programme, give some suggestions to improve its performance. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में निर्धनता उन्मूलन में SHGs द्वारा निभाई जा रही भूमिका को स्पष्ट कीजिए। SHG-बैंक लिंकेज कार्यक्रम की कमियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके निष्पादन में सुधार लाने हेतु कुछ सुझाव दीजिए।

Self Help groups (SHGs) are organisations of individuals in rural areas generally composed of women. As Jairam Ramesh once said. "if panchayats are institutions of ~~participation~~ representation, then SHGs are institutions of participation."

SHGs have multiple roles:

i) Financial - access to credit through bank linkage / livelihood option.

ii) Social reform - through associations of women giving voice to opinions

iii) participation - through social audit during Gram Sabha

They have a crucial role in poverty alleviation through credit access and schemes of government, which allows small scale enterprise for livelihood.

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(3)

Shortcomings of the bank linkage →

1. reliance on ~~paperwork~~ paperwork/ documentation, difficult for SHGs to meet bank conditionalities.

2. Does not help in scaling up SHG enterprises to formal sector, only small-scale loans.

3. Absence of effective financial training for SHG to deal with financial planning.

↳ Therefore, some reforms are required in the scheme →

1. Market information to be supplied to SHG clients by banks as part of services

2. financial literacy to be given to SHGs so that they can take advantage of credit access and expand their enterprises.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. Process redesigning and simpler documentation for loans → eg: Stand Start up India in which loans are given to female entrepreneurs.

↳ Thus, with sufficient handholding and responsive banking facilities SHGs can gain scale and gain entry into formal sector.

↳ SHGs already are expanding their activities → for eg: women in SHG, Maharashtra who took up System of Rice Intensification (SRI) to get better yields and now are expanding SHG.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Despite initiatives taken by the government in recent years to address the challenges of the Indian higher education system, many reforms are still required to improve its quality and enhance its relevance. Analyse.

**(250 words) 15**

भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विगत वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा की गई पहलों के बावजूद, इसकी गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने और इसकी प्रासंगिकता बढ़ाने हेतु अभी भी कई सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Indian education system is currently underpinned by Article 21 A of the Constitution, the Right to Education given to all children ~~under~~ aged 6-14.

There are many challenges in the public education system:

1. poor outcomes: 55% of children aged 14 do not have basic numeric capability
2. poor infrastructure: a huge number of single teacher schools with absence of facilities
3. High drop out rates - even through 97% enrollment ratio
4. Teacher absenteeism - exceeding 30% in some states
5. Low funding - only 2.7% of GDP

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Required reforms: The draft National Education Policy by Kasturirangan Committee advanced some recommendation →

1. Restructure schooling from 10+2 to 5 + 3 + 3 + 2 so that RTE applicable from 3 years to 18 years.
2. Professionalisation of teachers - greater training and regularisation
3. Make vocational education part of education at every level beginning with school.
4. Regulatory reforms - to enhance quality
   ↳ National Higher Education Regulation Authority (NHERA) to oversee all universities
   ↳ No fragmentation such as control by BCI, MCI or AICTE.
5. 'No detention' policy scrapped
6. National Research Foundation to focus grants of ₹20,000 per year for R&D.

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↳ These measures will enhance quality and relevance of public education which still caters to 70% of population.

However, financing will be the most important component to ensure 6% of GDP is spent on education. This has been a recommendation since Kothari Commission in 1964 and repeated by TSR Committee and Kasturirangan committee as well.

Recent initiatives like:
1. Scrapping no detention policy
2. NAAC accredition for all institutions
3. College autonomy in syllabus/fees

are all important steps whose significance will be realised in the years ahead.

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**18.** Giving an account of the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, mention the challenges that it faces in achieving its target. How can the implementation of the programme be fast-tracked? **(250 words) 15**

प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत हुई प्रगति का विवरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए, अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इस योजना के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए। इस कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन को किस प्रकार त्वरित किया जा सकता है?

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana aims to enable "Housing for All" by 2022. This will be through 3 main methods:

i) financing for home expansion
ii) grants for construction
iii) interest subvention for home loans

The Awas Yojana is also divided spatially into →

i) PM Gramin Awas Yojana
ii) PM Awas Yojana - Urban

However, it has faced some challenges in completion of the targets:

1) slow expansion and implementation
2) low awareness of schemes which prevents beneficiary access.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) High corruption which requires payment before applications are approved

4) Inequitable Access - concentrated among urban and middle class who can afford home loans/ have existing homes.

Yet the targets should be achieved if all levels of government are mobilised towards this goal:

1) Convergence with other schemes - such as NREGA to construct rural housing for all rural landless

2) linkage with technology to adopt modular designs - mass market applications like fabricated homes

3) Eco-friendly features such as rain-water harvesting to be built into design.

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Implementation of this goal can be fast tracked by →

1. Redesigning procedure and adopting 'positive silence'
2. E-Governance should be used to minimise discretion and have faceless interface.
3. Adopting third party audits and social audits at panchayat level.

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19. Island nations of the Indian Ocean hold immense strategic value in shaping the geopolitical contours of the region and ensuring maritime security of India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

हिंद महासागर के द्वीपीय राष्ट्र इस क्षेत्र की भू-राजनीतिक रूप-रेखा को आकार देने और भारत की समुद्री सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में अत्यधिक रणनीतिक महत्व रखते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

The island nations of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are close partners of India historically. Due to their locations they also have immense strategic value.

Some of the most important partners are →

1. Seychelles
2. Maldives
3. Mauritius.

Recent interest by China in IOR has given rise to fears that it is building a "string of pearls" of ports to contain India. These include ports built by China in:

1. Chittagong – Bangladesh
2. Kyukphu – Myanmar
3. Hambantota – Sri Lanka
4. Gwadar – Pakistan

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Keeping in mind the maritime security of IOR and the role of India as net Security provider in the region, India has embarked on securing facilities in →

1. Assumption island - Seychelles
2. Agalega island - Mauritius

India has also advanced considerable assistance to Maldives financially and by capacity-building / training.

↳ To address the threat of piracy to maritime security, India formed the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) of all littoral states of Indian Ocean

↳ The navy also supports the exclusive economic zone of Seychelles and Mauritius in realm of security by patrolling there.

Don't write anything this margin

Keeping in mind the other islands occupied by outside powers →

1. Diego Garcia - US
2. Reunion island - France
3. Christmas island - Australia

it becomes imperative for India to assist island nations in development and maritime security to keep Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

↳ The threat of great power competition is, however, rising. The basing of Chinese navy in Djibouti and increasing incursions all point to a period of unsettling manouvres.

↳ The nations of Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles will be essential to securing India's maritime security, along with our own Andaman & Nicobar islands.

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20. Development assistance, a key instrument in India's foreign policy, has seen a considerable expansion in the past few years both in its scope and reach. Elucidate. (250 words) 15

भारतीय विदेश नीति के एक प्रमुख साधन के रूप में 'विकास सहायता' के दायरे और पहुँच दोनों में विगत कुछ वर्षों में काफ़ी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Development assistance is financial or technological assistance by India to assist the recipient nation in its aim to improve quality of life of its citizens.

In recent years there has been a rise in developmental assistance to neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Afghanistan.

There has been an expansion to its scope :

1) technological - ITEC (Indian technological and economic cooperation)

2) ICCR - Indian Council for Cultural Relations

3) RIS - Research in Systems for building planning capacity.

Don't write anything this margin (Left area is open for binding)

There has also been an expansion in reach with increased receiptants in Africa and South America:

1. Africa : engagement in agricultural Research & Development, dairy farming and renewable energy.
   eg → Rwanda / Uganda assistance in dairy sector.

2. South America : expansion to Peru and Bolivia for the first time.

↳ As a key instrument of foreign policy development assistance promotes goodwill among the people and encourages positive orientation in receiving state.

This can lead to foreign policy successes, such as → Afghanistan preference for Indian relations and Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).

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Development assistance comprises:

1) community funding → for local area improvements such as schools, health centers.

2) Area level projects → such as Selma Dam in Afghanistan or Zaranj - Delaram highway.

3) Technology cooperation - collaboration in R&D between Indian institutions

↳ The sum total of developmental support leads to:

1) Support for disadvantaged / vulnerable communities
2) strengthening of Indian partners within such nations
3) Public support for friendly ties with India.

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GS 3

## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1244)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Name of Candidate | Angad Mehta | | |
| Medium Eng./Hindi | English | Registration Number | 461609 |
| Center | Delhi | Date | 4.09.19 |

### INDEX TABLE

| Q. No. | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | |
| 2 | 10 | |
| 3 | 10 | |
| 4 | 10 | |
| 5 | 10 | |
| 6 | 10 | |
| 7 | 10 | |
| 8 | 10 | |
| 9 | 10 | |
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| 11 | 15 | |
| 12 | 15 | |
| 13 | 15 | |
| 14 | 15 | |
| 15 | 15 | |
| 16 | 15 | |
| 17 | 15 | |
| 18 | 15 | |
| 19 | 15 | |
| 20 | 15 | |

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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# EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Discuss the need of an Independent Fiscal Council (IFC) in bringing about transparency and accountability in fiscal processes in India. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में राजकोषीय प्रक्रियाओं में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का समावेश करने हेतु एक स्वतंत्र राजकोषीय परिषद (IFC) की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

There has been a proposal to establish an Independent Fiscal Council to replace some of the functions that were done by the Planning Commission.

Benefits :

1) Allocation of Resources to states with emphasis on development

2) Supplement role of Finance Commission transfers and GST Council

3) Check the growing deficits of Center + States and Extra Budgetary Provisions (EBR) that together account for almost 7% of GDP

4) Coordinate planning and schemes on combined platform - Cooperative federalism.

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However there are many challenges to the creation of an Independent Fiscal Council →

1) Transparency: it will lead to disclosure and coordination by all parties which is unfeasible due to political compulsions and motivations

2) Accountability – it will lead to clear statistics and scale of borrowing but that is unlikely to curb expenditures on social sector.

↳ It has been suggested by N.K. Singh, head of the Finance Commission to function within the Inter-State Council.

↳ The proposal has merits but it will lead to loss of autonomy of the States and tension and faces problems.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. Recognizing the potential of exports in generating employment, a number of steps need to be taken to address India's weakening export competitiveness. Analyze. (150 words) 10

रोजगार सृजन हेतु निर्यात क्षेत्र की क्षमताओं की पहचान करते हुए, भारत की कमजोर होती निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धा को संबोधित करने हेतु कई कदम उठाए जाने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

India's exports have remained stagnant or declining since 2012-13 period. Many reasons have been attributed for this stagnation →

1) rise in real exchange rate (RER): as other competitor economy currencies have fallen faster than INR.

2) cumbersome regulations: in electricity and enforcing contracts

3) Rising interest rates: real exchange rates in India are the 2nd highest in the world after Brazil due to low inflation.

4) falling competitiveness: compared to Bangladesh / Vietnam that compete in same goods basket

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Exports have the potential to give employment to India's huge demography which is currently not being utilised.

Steps :

1) economic → loose monetary policy by RBI - lower exchange rates

2) fiscal → public investment by govt at massive level to enhance efficiency.

3) Regulatory → loosen strict rules on land / electricity / water connections

4) Labour → permit flexible hiring / firing

5) Skills → enhance National Apprenticeship Programs & PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

↳ a combination of these measures has the potential to shift India to an employment boom.

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3. Highlighting the main features of National Mineral Policy, 2019, discuss how it can help in ensuring sustainable and responsible mining.

**(150 words) 10**

राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 2019 की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि यह संधारणीय और उत्तरदायित्वपूर्ण खनन सुनिश्चित करने में कैसे सहायता कर सकती है।

The National Mineral Policy 2019 is focused on some core focus areas:

1) exploration
2) licensing
3) domestic production

under these measures have been outlined to boost India's domestic mineral industry and create 10 million additional jobs by 2022. NITI Aayog ~~defines~~ states that only 10% of India's territory has been explored for mineral deposits.

(1) → This is to be raised to 20%.

(2) → OALP (open acreage licensing policy to encourage mineral production)

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(3) HELP (Hydrocarbon exploration licensing policy) that will boost domestic production of hydrocarbons in India.

Benefits

1. lower imports → currently 80% of Indian oil is imported
2. higher employment → in the exploration and production sectors
3. Research & Development → in the hydrological & geological sciences field.
4. lower prices → protection from external shocks and currency changes.

The Deep Sea Mission by Ministry of Earth Sciences for sea-bed mining will further strengthen the Indian industry in this field.

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4. Highlighting the salient features of the PM JI-VAN Yojana, analyze how it can assist in achieving the vision and goals of the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018. **(150 words) 10**

"प्रधानमंत्री जी-वन योजना" की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि यह जैव ईंधन राष्ट्रीय नीति, 2018 की दृष्टि और लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकती है।

PM JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan Vatavaran Anukool Fasal Avshesh Nivaran) is basically the policy on implementing the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018. It sets out the transformation of cellulose based organic material into biofuel.

Classification:

1st Generation - plant based such as sugarcane

2nd Generation - based on waste/or other plants such as jatropha

3rd Generation - microbe based Conversion of organic matter.

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The recent goal of 10% mandatory addition of biofuel with retailed petrol has given massive support to PM JI-VAN.

Benefits:

1) Address sugarcane crisis: that is due to massive overproduction in UP/Maharashtra, by allowing use of 'B' molasses & even sugarcane juice

2) Raise farmer/tribal income: by involving them in high value biofuel such as sugarcane/jatropha.

3) Reduce rural distress/economic stability
sustainable business model without need for GoA interventions.

↳ Massive improvement in the biofuel industry will also reduce environmental damage.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) provides an alternative to capital and chemical intensive agriculture currently being practiced in India. Analyze. **(150 words) 10**

जीरो बजट प्राकृतिक कृषि (ZBNF), भारत में वर्तमान समय में प्रचलित पूंजी और रसायन गहन कृषि का एक विकल्प प्रदान करती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a traditional organic method of production that has been promoted by the PM in his Independence Day ~~spho~~ speech.

Components →

1. organic manure
2. mixture of natural herbs / plants

The use of these is supposed to be an effective counterweight to the current challenges of chemical intensive agriculture →

1. High toxicity : throughout the food chain that has permeated everywhere
2. High costs : borne by govt. due to subsidies.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. Perverse incentives : as the farmers have no reason to reduce chemicals but increase use to maximise production.

4. Falling fertility : due to monoculture and intensive agriculture / absence of micro-nutrients.

Yet, there are challenges to ZBNF because it is not a demonstrated technology that can reliably increase and double farmers income by 2022.

Possible options :

1) Direct benefit transfer - so that farmers can choose ZBNF or chemicals - also incentive to save money and reduce chemicals.

2) Promote agroecology to raise yields - such as SRI in rice without other inputs

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6. Marine life is facing 'irreparable damage' from the millions of tonnes of plastic waste which ends up in the oceans each year. In this context, examine the implications of plastic pollution on marine ecosystem and suggest some measures for addressing this problem. (150 words) 10

समुद्री जीवन, प्रति वर्ष समुद्र में पहुँचने वाले लाखों टन प्लास्टिक कचरे के कारण 'अपूरणीय क्षति' का सामना कर रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए और इस समस्या के समाधान हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

One-time plastic use is set to be banned in India in 2022 under its commitment to UN Habitat in Nairobi. The decision was taken keeping in mind the dramatic damage it has caused →

1. to our ecosystems in marine region
2. ↳ microplastic invasion into food chains through fish
3. ↳ carcinogenic components
4. ↳ destroying ecosystems such as reefs
5. → also the non-biodegradable nature of plastic that collects together
   eg → garbage patch in Pacific Ocean.

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Measures :

1) Research & Development - alternative options such bioplastics that are formed of organic material & which does not harm ecosystems.

2) Banning one-use plastic but retaining in multi-use package industry.

3) increasing thickness to 50 microns so that components do not change into micro-plastics and affect the food change.

↳ global conversation on plastic use can lead to comprehensive action such as alternatives, regulation and rectification of damaged ecosystems — discussed in STOPCAR (Status of Protected Coral Reefs) - 2018.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. Write a short note on the evolution of Bharat Stage norms in India. Also discuss the significance and challenges posed by the planned introduction of BS-VI norms in India from the year 2020. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में भारत स्टेज मानकों के विकास पर एक संक्षिप्त टिप्पणी लिखिए। साथ ही, वर्ष 2020 से भारत में BS-VI मानकों को योजनाबद्ध रूप से लागू किए जाने के महत्व और उसमें आने वाली चुनौतियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Bharat Stage norms (BS norms) have closely followed the motor fuel efficiency standards in European Union since the early 2000s. The recent stage for implementation is BS VI, based on the Euro VI standards that have showed multiple benefits:

1) lower sulphur emissions - 80% decrease
2) lower nitrous oxide emissions by almost 35%
3) catalytic converter will also reduce existing emissions by reducing PM 2.5 and PM 10 concentrations

eg: relevant to Indian cities.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges :

1) Difficult time period as Indian auto industry has only few years from transitioning ~~fro~~ BS IV to BS VI directly by 2020.

2) High investments required for R&D and developing new engines for all models.

3) Market conditions that currently the auto industry is struggling with profitability as demand down by 33%.

Therefore, the auto industry faces many difficulties in meeting the deadline and perhaps temporary relaxation of implementation will assist the financial health of the industry that counts for 9% of GDP.

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8. What are black holes? Highlight the challenges in imaging a black hole? How were these challenges overcome by the Event Horizon Telescope project? **(150 words) 10**

ब्लैक होल क्या हैं? ब्लैक होल के चित्रण (इमेजिंग) में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इवेंट होराइज़न टेलीस्कोप प्रोजेक्ट द्वारा इन चुनौतियों को कैसे दूर किया गया?

Black holes are centers of gravity that suck in all light emanating from within it. They are remnants of stars that eventually compress into a small center of great density.

They are detectable only by gravity waves and have been the center of much scientific debate on whether they can be medium for travel through space and time.

The challenge of imaging a black hole is immense as no light is allowed to escape its gravity.

↳ Therefore, it can only be

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done by creating a composite picture from data on gravity waves detection.

→ This was done in the Event Horizon Telescope Project which digitally created an image of the Black Hole for the first time ever.

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9. While mentioning the objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), discuss the challenges which are hindering the utilization of the ATT to its full potential. **(150 words) 10**

शस्त्र व्यापार संधि (ATT) के उद्देश्यों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए जो ATT को इसकी पूर्ण क्षमता से उपयोगित किये जाने में बाधक हैं।

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a UN treaty that has gained much global support for banning much of global trade in armaments and instating end-use laws.

↳ However there has ~~no~~ been no support from members of UNSC and India opposes it as well on grounds of sovereignity.

↳ Challenges

1) State interests: national security reasons prevent ATT from gaining much relevance in policy discussions due to real threat of war.

2) Growing insecurity - due to failure of UN and the decline of US unipolar dominance.

3) Global arms industry - almost $400 billion in arms trade every year that is at stake, huge lobbying efforts.

4) Allies / strategic reasons : US sales to Saudi Arabia / UAE to combat Iran in Yemen, realpolitik

↳ Thus, like the NPT and the ban on nuclear weapons, the ATT is similarly facing the challenges of realism on the world stage.

↳ The implementation of ATT therefore looks unlikely due to national interests.

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**10.** Threats to internal security of India may be posed both through the communication networks and also to the networks. Discuss. Also, highlight the steps taken by the government in making the networks more secure.
**(150 words) 10**

भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को खतरा संचार नेटवर्कों के माध्यम से एवं स्वयं संचार नेटवर्कों को खतरा होने, दोनों ही प्रकार से हो सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, नेटवर्कों को अधिक सुरक्षित बनाने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

National Cyber Policy, ~~2013~~ (2013) recognises the dangers to both networks and through the networks.

It established the NCIIP → The National Center for Information Infrastructure Protection.

Various other departments such as the NIC (National Informatics Center) and the DCA (Defense Cyber Agency) endeavour to protect communication networks.

Threats → (1) Communication networks
↳ State sponsored

(2) Through networks → subconventional

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eg: ISIS propaganda or Burhan Wani

(1) use of facebook in J&K to use subconventional methods.

↳ Huawei and 5G telecom networks

(2) pose state threat to India through use of "Backdoors" as warned by Goyal, Chairman of Indian telecom manufacturers.

State Measures

(1) IT (intermediary rules) to trace messages on platform to locate source of messages: terrorists, etc.

(2) TRAI testing of 5G equipment to remove / locate backdoors in Huawei

(3) IIT Madras R&D to create Risecreek chips for fabricating own communication networks.

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**11.** Highlight the importance and challenges related to integration of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) in India. Mention some steps that can be taken for its smooth integration with the synchronized Indian grid. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में परिवर्तनीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (VRE) के एकीकरण के महत्व और इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। ऐसे कुछ कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए जो समक्रमिक (सिंक्रनाइज्ड) भारतीय ग्रिड के साथ इसके सहज एकीकरण के लिए उठाए जा सकते हैं।

Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) refers to sources of energy such as

Solar - only during day

wind - only during periods of air gusts

tidal - only during tidal period

These are different from other Renewable energy like - ~~Geothermal~~

Geothermal : permanent energy round the clock

waste to energy : based on supply

IMPORTANCE of VRE

1) climate friendly - no emissions

2) low costs - lower than coal energy now

3) Reduced land degradation → due to mining or thermal pollution.

The govt of India has decided to →

1) have installed capacity of 175 GW by 2022

2) include hydropower as renewable energy that will grant increased financing.

CHALLENGES

1) Variability - no reliability because of changing environmental conditions

2) Need for base power - to complement energy grid during night or during cloudy days → this is mainly through thermal energy (coal based)

3) Import dependence - on solar PV cells and wind turbines on Chinese industry.

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Measures

① Technology → Thermal batteries to charge and retain power for later requirement

→ Hydro uplift which pumps water uphill to retain energy as kinetic energy.

② Grid Upgradation → Smart meters to account for home solar sets that can feed energy to grid

↓

Unified transmission to provide electricity from other areas - eg: Kutch wind power to Tamil Nadu solar energy during Cloudy days.

→ The combination of these steps will establish VRE as 40% of total ~~energy~~ / electricity capacity by 2030

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

**12.** There have been arguments that India could fall into a 'middle income trap'. Explaining the phenomenon, highlight the reasons behind such arguments. How can India avoid it? **(250 words) 15**

ऐसे तर्क दिए गए हैं कि भारत 'मध्यम आय पाश' में फंस सकता है। इस परिघटना की व्याख्या करते हुए, ऐसे तर्कों के लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारत इससे किस प्रकार बच सकता है?

Recently, Rathin Roy termed the current crisis in India as due to the onset of "Middle-income trap" in which nations stagnate at an income level of ~~$~~2000 - $12,000 per capita

This happens due to →

1) inability to harness productivity growth and R&D as basis for growth above $12000 level.

2) competition from nations on lower labour costs that threaten your economic position

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This is a serious threat ~~of~~ to India which can lead to the end of the Indian growth story. The main social - economic causes of this trap are seen also in South Africa or Brazil →

(1) High inequality in society — this leads to only a very small pool of consumers in society. In India the top 10% own 73% of assets

(2) Productivity stagnation - due to bad education and healthcare in the population which cannot propel R&D

(3) Redistribution - seen as non-productive expenditure that does not invest in the economy but is merely recurrent expenditure.

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This is seen in India as well with 25% of all expenditures (6%) of GDP on social sector subsidies while education has (2.7% of GDP) and health (1.4% of GDP)

SOLUTIONS

1) Massive education reform and public expenditure on schooling/vocational level

2) Healthcare at primary level, not like curative/tertiary care. Disease control

3) Subsidies to be shifted into investment expenditure with targeted subsidies to 30% of population (Shanta Kumar Committee - 40% of population)

4) Deregulation of economy - banks to be allowed efficient lending and efficient business without govt. distortions of PSVs.

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**13.** Highlighting its importance, discuss the major issues that plague effective monetary policy transmission in India. Also, mention the steps taken by RBI to improve it. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में मौद्रिक नीति संचरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन प्रमुख मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए जो इसकी प्रभाविता को बाधित करते हैं। साथ ही, इसमें सुधार के लिए RBI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Monetary Policy transmission is the cascading of interest rate changes. Recently, the RBI has been reducing the repo rates but transmission has been weak with lending rates still remaining high.

IMPORTANCE →

1) effective management of economy:
as monetary policy is the linchpin to controlling inflation, employment and growth.

2) Pro-cyclical / Anti-cyclical role:
as per the economy states the RBI undertakes the policy stance required.

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PROBLEMS in effective transmission

1) High NPAs - leading to banks using lower repo rates to increase provisioning for bad loans.

2) Liquidity squeeze - due to PCA and business environment most banks have limited customers/ therefore lower rates would impact profitability & endanger banks.

3) Low credit growth - lower rates help only in an environment of financial lending /growth. Due to current state there is no spirit for investing currently.

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RBI has attempted to rectify this problem by →

(1) linking lending rates to external benchmarks – such as repo rates or Treasury bonds (G-Secs). However, few banks have done this as of now.

(2) OMO → Open Market Operations to induct more liquidity in the market which has impacted NBFCs and is now hurting demand in the economy – such as auto sales based on NBFC loans.

The ~~cur~~ current atmosphere requires RBI to reduce interest rates further as inflation is under control & growth has fallen dramatically.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

**14.** Highlight the constraints faced by rainfed agriculture in India. Discuss some agronomic practices that can be adopted for stabilizing agricultural production in rainfed areas. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में वर्षा सिंचित कृषि में आने वाली बाधाओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्षा सिंचित क्षेत्रों में कृषि उत्पादन को स्थायित्व प्रदान करने हेतु अपनाई जा सकने वाली कुछ कृषि-वैज्ञानिक पद्धतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

Rainfed agriculture faces a bias in India with most irrigation facilities going to other areas such as Punjab, Uttar Pradesh rather than West Bengal or Odhisa / South India.

Constraints

1) Rain dependency / fluctuation

2) Drought - prone : such as Vidarbha or Tumkur in Karnataka

3) Variable yields : depending on the rain, pests and climate

4) Unpredictability in income : leading to loans and indebtedness

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

However within these limitations many steps can be taken as India has practised rainfed agriculture for thousands of years.

AGRONOMIC PRACTISES :

1) Traditional knowledge such as local varieties suited to specific climate
→ rather than HYV seeds

→ local crops suited to conditions rather than sugarcane or other cash crops.
→ multi-cropping

2) Water ~~management~~ management

→ local check dams
→ Rain water harvesting structures
→ drip irrigation / sprinklers to reduce water use & increase water efficiency from 38% to 60% (NITI Aayog 3 Year Action Agenda)

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3) Agro-ecology – this involves practises agriculture in conjunction with other activities such as:

→ livestock rearing
→ sericulture
→ agroforestry – teak, sal, etc.
→ biofuels such as jatropha which grow in arid conditions.
→ dairy farming

These all increase income and increase agricultural production and economy. Earlier practises must be revisited and improved upon such as Palakkad Underwater farming or System of Rice Intensification.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Despite the steps taken by the government in recent years, a number of problems continue to persist in the urea sector in India. Discuss. What reforms should be taken to address the persisting problems?

**(250 words) 15**

हाल के वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के बावजूद, भारत में यूरिया क्षेत्र में कई समस्याएं निरंतर बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। मौजूदा समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु क्या सुधार किए जाने चाहिए?

The Urea sector in India is essential to ensuring food security and preventing hunger among the people. It is crucial to increasing farm yields since the Green Revolution.

However, problems still persist in the sector due to deep-seated issues:

1) Financial Viability → pending dues of ₹42,000 crore from the government

2) Import dependence → for rock phosphate and other materials for creating chemicals fertilisers.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Government Measures :

1) Preventing leakage - which was a major issue earlier but has been solved with neem coating

2) Expansion of production - with a huge capacity program to expand the Green Revolution to East India in West Bengal, Odhisa and Bihar.

3) Rising budgets - provision of almost ₹80,000 crore for the fertiliser subsidy in 2019 budget.

However, there will have to be reforms to address the deeper problems of the urea sector →

1) Shift to Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF) to prevent rising toxicity in food chain.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2) Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to resolve the challenge of pending dues and give choice to farmers.

3) Import substitution - which will be achieved with the construction of new plants in the next 2-3 years.

With these reforms there will be a movement towards safer farming and income rise of farmers to unleash the Green Revolution in East India and other regions, which will lead to food security and availability, as well as enabling the doubling of farmers income (Dalwai committee)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

**16.** What is Access and Benefit Sharing? Explain how it aids in sustainable use of biodiversity. Also, mention the different global and national level mechanisms for ensuring Access and Benefit Sharing. **(250 words) 15**

पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण (एक्सेस एंड बेनिफिट शेयरिंग) क्या है? यह जैव विविधता के संधारणीय उपयोग में किस प्रकार सहायक है, स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण सुनिश्चित करने हेतु वैश्विक और राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विभिन्न प्रणालियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) is one of the foundational principles of the Nagoya Protocol and the Biodiversity Act, 2002 (BDA).

It refers to the use of traditional knowledge by sharing the benefits and profits with local communities.

It is relevant to sustainable use of biodiversity as it creates a value for traditional knowledge by granting it Intellectual Property recognition.

↳ This encourages private sector to engage in local communities and not engage in reckless exploitation.

1

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↳ This also encourages traditional
(2) communities to preserve their knowledge as a source of livelihood.

ABS Monitoring :

- BDA mandates a 3 tier structure with →

1) National Biodiversity Authority with responsibility for supervision and liaison.

2) State Biodiversity Boards to engage with lower tiers and regulate biodiversity management & ABS agreements

3) local Biodiversity Boards to compile register of traditional knowledge, have agreements for ABS and represent communities.

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This elaborate structure is also complemented by the Nagoya Protocol and international laws that prohibit ~~biodiversity~~ exploitation of traditional knowledge without benefit sharing.

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**17.** Stating the significance, discuss the challenges in achieving disaster resilience of infrastructure. Suggest some ways for mainstreaming it in the development paradigm. **(250 words) 15**

अवसंरचनाओं का आपदाओं के प्रति सुनम्य (रेजिलिएंट) होने के महत्व को स्पष्ट करते हुए, इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए। इसे विकास प्रतिमान की मुख्यधारा में लाने हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

The Hyogo Framework (2005-2015) and the Sendai Framework (2015-30) both emphasise on the need for achieving disaster resilience of infrastructure with →

1) Retrofitting of essential infrastructure such as buildings of national importance or utilities

2) Build - Back - Better principle under which post disaster reconstruction should utilise available standards of resilience →

eg: ECO Samhita in code for building resilient infrastructure.

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Challenges

1) Cost → as disaster resilience increases costs by 10% to 20%

2) Capacity → as skilled infrastructure has not been mainstreamed

3) Awareness → in the general public to demand resilient infrastructure
↳ urban flooding requires new standards for public construction

However, these challenges can be addressed. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has outlined guidelines for specific disaster events and structural measures to prepare for each. In conjunction with National Disaster Management Plan, 2016 it seeks to →

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~~mainstream~~ mainstream it into the development paradigm →

1) Eco-Niwas Samhita - National building code with suitable measures such as Rain Water Harvesting, recyclable materials.

2) Zoning requirements to be followed by all with penalties for architect and builder concerned.

3) Capacity building - incorporating within skilling and education of all levels of workers in construction industry / architects / engineers.

A comprehensive movement towards using infrastructure to adapt to disasters will reduce fatalities and economic losses from disasters.

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**18.** Highlighting the significance of data localization for India, discuss various challenges associated with data localization. **(250 words) 15**

भारत के लिए डेटा के स्थानीयकरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, डेटा के स्थानीयकरण से जुड़ी विभिन्न चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

There has been significant debate recently on data localisation in India. Government agencies have also been a part of this debate with some recent measures:

1) RBI → data localisation of payment data

2) Commerce Ministry → draft e-commerce rules

3) Draft Privacy Bill (Srikrishna Committee). → data localisation by all intermediaries, keeping a local copy

There has been opposition to this from MNC social media firms citing →

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1) High costs - due to data duplication

2) Free flow of information - principle of the internet

However, it is significant that India has taken this move due to →

1) law enforcement → cumbersome requests under MLAT. (mutual legal assistance treaties)

2) Data Sovereignity → principle of China and Russia in which data is the new oil which gives value by processing abroad in other countries but not India

3) Privacy → India had no authority over MNC firms, that could only be done through legislation.
eg: EU has GDPR which protects its citizens.

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While there are challenges to data localisation, these are not unsurmountable

It is being opposed because it would:

1) Reduce profits of Snapchat, FB, Google, etc. by opening duplicate servers here in India.
2) Increase oversight by the proposed Data Protection Agency (DPA) over their activities.

Indian firms such as Paytm and Ola support data localisation as they feel Indian govt. should support domestic firms like the Chinese state →

1) support domestic eco-system
2) create digital titans
3) Protect Digital Sovereignity

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

**19.** Money Laundering as a socio economic offence is a menace especially for developing countries like India. Comment. What measures have been taken at the domestic and international levels to deal with this menace?

**(250 words) 15**

एक सामाजिक आर्थिक अपराध के रूप में धन शोधन विशेषकर भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के लिए एक खतरा है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस खतरे से निपटने हेतु घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर क्या उपाय किए गए हैं?

Money Laundering is the financial flows outside the banking system that are often earned through illegal activities.

Anti-Money Laundering (AML) measures are taken especially in developing countries but also in EU and US because of its menace to society →

1) Funds anti-social elements like drug dealers, organised crime and terrorists.
2) Tax evasion and opportunity cost to the poor / vulnerable in society
3) Inflation as it leads to higher prices

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There are many ways in which money laundering is carried out →

1) through cash
2) ~~ARS~~ ARS (Alternative Remittance System like Hawala)
3) Cyber currencies (such as Bitcoin)

Developing countries are especially hard hit as its sourced from usually corruption and it flows to safe-havens such as Switzerland or the Cayman Islands. The whole mechanism was uncovered in the Mossack Fonseca Papers which showed the flow of capital from developing nations to developed nations due to corruption by local elites.

## Measures

↳ Domestic legislation/Regulations

1) KYC norms - for banks
2) PMLA (Prevention of Money laundering Act)
3) FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act)
4) Benami Transactions Act, 2015

These have been supplemented at the international level by →

1) Resolution 1373 (to combat money laundering & financing of terrorism)
2) Resolution 1267 committee (to sanction economic assets/flows of terrorist individuals)
3) Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism, 1999
4) UN Convention Against Corruption, 2003

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**20.** The primary motive of terrorism differs from that of organised crime but there exists a symbiotic relationship between the two. Discuss.

**(250 words) 15**

आतंकवाद का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य संगठित अपराध के उद्देश्य से भिन्न होता है, किन्तु दोनों के मध्य एक सहजीवी संबंध पाया जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

↳ Terrorism refers to the use of terror and violence to change policies of a government. It has two features →

1) use of fear of striking anywhere
2) use against non-combatants like civilians, women and children.

Therefore it is generally motivated by ideology / religion to achieve some goals by changing government positions due to public pressure.

↳ Organised crime has only the motive of gaining profit from illegal activities. This is usually done by collusion with certain actors such as terrorists, police, state officials.

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Therefore while organised crime is essentially value-neutral, it can engage with all actors / Organisations.

↳ SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

A → Insurgency → B terrorism → C organised crime

(1) there is a tendency among insurgencies to degrade to terrorism when they lose public support.

example → Taliban attacks due to public disillusion with the movements.

Terrorism requires only some limited people while insurgency is the expression of the people against the State.

(2) Terrorism often later degrades into organised crime as time passes &

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motivation falls among the members.

eg : North East is full of such groups such as NSCN (IM) or ULFA which are essentially drug syndicates now rather than insurgencies or terrorists.

eg: Taliban has also shifted from prohibition of drugs to cultivation of opium.

The symbiosis is sometimes seen among different groups such as Myanmar where Shan State / Kachin Independence Army permit drug cultivation by criminal groups while remaining committed to insurgency.

↳ Thus, while there is a relationship between terrorists and organised crime it can often be nebulous to critically draw boundaries on its nature.